

Dollars Down the Drain: Frivolous Lawsuits Waste Resources for Children with Disabilities

The story of one suburban school district with over 33,000 students--

- **One parent filed 15 due process complaints against the District from June 1988 through January 2004.**
- **The District paid \$195,000 in attorneys' fees to defend these cases.**

Just since November 2001 —

- **828 communications have been sent (letters, faxes, and telephone voice messages).**
- **Over 2,440 pages of documents have been sent from the parent to the District.**
- **One District employee devotes the majority of his time on this parent.**

Summary:

In 7 cases, the District won on every issue or the complaint was dismissed by the hearing officer.

In 2 cases, the District won on every issue except one.

In 2 cases, the complaint was withdrawn by the parent.

In 4 cases, the complaint was settled by mediation.